



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### **Fish and Wildlife Service**

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#### **U.S. AGENCIES TO HOST MEETING** **CONCERNING RUSSIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

The future of Russia's vast natural resource network of parks and preserves will be the topic of an international conference sponsored by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Bryn Mawr College near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 30 - July 3, 1993.

During the conference, natural resource experts from the United States, Russia, Canada, and various international non-governmental organizations will focus on immediate protection and long-term enhancement of Russia's natural resources in light of that country's current economic crisis and rapid shift to a market economy. The invited participants also will develop a draft implementation plan to address the most critical needs.

The more than 80 scientists and wildlife experts, including 30 from Russia, will discuss topics such as reconciling environmental protection and economic priorities; administration of protected areas; public versus private ownership of land and land-use planning; threatened and endangered species; and environmental monitoring of air, water, and vegetation.

"I am encouraged by the Russian government's dedication to conserving its beautiful and distinct ecosystems in light of its pressing needs in other areas," said Interior Secretary Bruce

(More)

Babbitt. "Through this conference, we will work together to identify the best ways to help Russia address its resource conservation emergency."

Featured speakers during the session will include Russia's preeminent environmental advocate Aleksei V. Yablokov, Counselor to Russian President Boris Yelstin for Ecology and Public Health; Amirkhan M. Amirkhanov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources; and Donald J. Barry, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The meeting is the third in a series of conservation conferences representing over 20 years of cooperation between United States and Russian scientists. The Fish and Wildlife Service continues to maintain active professional relationships with its counterpart ministries in Russia. Joining the Service in sponsoring the conference are the U.S. Departments of State and Defense and the U.S. Forest Service.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: If you wish to attend the conference, please contact Patricia W. Fisher, Office of Current Information, USFWS, 202-208-5634 for further information.

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